

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:
prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and
unloading from the memory of the workstation a unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files.
 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising saving settings relating to the unload file in the workstation before the unloading step.
 - 10 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the saving step includes saving changes made by a user to the unload file including at least one of display settings, user viewing settings, and other changes to the original form of the unload file.
 - 15 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising reloading the unload file onto the workstation from a server, and presenting the unload file in an identical form as last presented to the user before the unloading step by utilizing the settings from the saving step, thereby the user perceiving the unload file to have been virtually open throughout.
 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the user selected files include at least one open file stored in the memory and a new file to be stored in the memory.
 - 20 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising loading the new file from a remote unit to the workstation, and presenting the new file onto the workstation, wherein the loading and the presenting steps occur after the unloading step.
 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising repeating the prioritizing and the unloading steps a plurality of times as desired to open each successive new file on the workstation.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the new file than to the at least one open file.

5 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to one of the user selected files that is a currently being used file than to each of the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack than to each of the user selected files that is a related file.

10 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to each of the user selected files that is a related file than to each of the user selected files that is not a currently being used file, does not comprise a part of a using stack, and is not a related file.

15 12. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the user selected files comprises image data representative of a plurality of images acquired from an imaging device.

20 13. A system for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:
means for prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and
means for unloading a unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files and wherein the means for prioritizing is coupled to the means for unloading.

25 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for saving settings relating to the unload file before unloading the unload file, wherein the means for saving is coupled to the means for prioritizing.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for saving is configured to save changes made by a user to the unload file including at least one of display settings, user viewing settings, and other changes to the original form of the unload file.

5 16. The system of claim 14, further comprising means for reloading the unload file onto the workstation from a server, and means for presenting the unload file in an identical form as last presented to a user before unloading of the unload file by utilizing the settings from the means for saving, thereby the user perceiving the unload file to have been virtually open throughout.

10 17. The system of claim 13, wherein the user selected files include at least one open file stored in the memory and a new file to be stored in the memory.

15 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising means for loading the new file from a remote unit to the workstation, and means for presenting the new file onto the workstation, wherein the loading and the presenting of the new file occurs after the unloading of the unload file.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for prioritizing and the means for unloading are configured to prioritize and unload, respectively, a plurality of times as desired to open each successive new file on the workstation.

20 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the new file than to the at least one open file.

21. The system of claim 13, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to one of the user selected files that is a currently being used file than to each of the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack.

25 22. The system of claim 13, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack than to each of the user selected files that is a related file.

23. The system of claim 13, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to each of the user selected files that is a related file than to each of the user selected files that is not a currently being used file, does not comprise a part of a using stack, and is not a related file.

5 24. The system of claim 13, wherein each of the user selected files comprises image data representative of a plurality of images acquired from an imaging device.

10 25. A system for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:
a processor configured to prioritize the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

the memory configured to unload a unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files and wherein the processor is coupled to the memory.

15 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the memory is configured to save settings relating to the unload file before unloading the unload file.

20 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the settings include at least one of display settings, user viewing settings, and other changes to the original form of the unload file.

25 28. The system of claim 26, wherein the memory is configured to reload the unload file from a server, and further comprising a display coupled to the processor and configured to present the unload file in an identical form as last presented to a user before the unload file was unloaded by utilizing the settings, thereby the user perceives the unload file to have been virtually open throughout.

29. The system of claim 25, wherein the user selected files include at least one open file stored in the memory and a new file to be stored in the memory.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the memory is configured to load the new file from a remote unit, and further comprising a display coupled to the processor and configured to display the new file.

5 31. The system of claim 29, wherein the processor and the memory are configured to prioritize and unload, respectively, a plurality of times as desired to open each successive new file on the workstation.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the new file than to the at least one open file.

10 33. The system of claim 25, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to one of the user selected files that is a currently being used file than to each of the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack.

15 34. The system of claim 25, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack than to each of the user selected files that is a related file.

35. The system of claim 25, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to each of the user selected files that is a related file than to each of the user selected files that is not a currently being used file, does not comprise a part of a using stack, and is not a related file.

20 36. The system of claim 25, wherein each of the user selected files comprises image data representative of a plurality of images acquired from an imaging device, wherein the workstation is coupled to the imaging device.